

No Pay Boosts Needed

Included on the April 9 municipal ballot in Torrance will be another proposal to hike the pay of the city's mayor and councilmen. The presently constituted council apparently intends to keep asking for the pay hike despite repeated rebuffs by their constituents.

The hike in salary is needed, we are told, because the monthly stipend of \$100 is less than the minimum legal wage. We are being told that councilmen spend long and arduous hours, spend from their own pockets, and are vastly underpaid for the important work they do.

To which we say "horsefeathers."

Earlier this year we commented on the councilmen's drive to triple their monthly pay, saying we would not oppose a flat monthly stipend of \$300 if the members of the council would set some sensible guidelines for expenses. It is obvious that they have done nothing along this line and don't intend to.

Case in point:

One of the candidates seeking election next week has been drawing attention to one facet of the free-wheeling attitude of the councilmen toward expenses. Mr. Blayne Asher, using an official tabulation compiled by the city's finance director, points out that the bar and dinner tabs for councilmen after their 5:30 p.m. sessions normally runs well over \$100 and has run as high as \$168. The annual bill averages slightly more than \$200 a month.

That's a drop in the bucket when compared to the city's annual budget, we're told.

Certainly it is. And so is the other \$562.43 in restaurant bills on other occasions. And so is the thousands of dollars spent on airplane tickets to Hawaii, Houston, and other far points, and the thousands spent on hotels, banquets, taxis, tips, and other "necessary expenses" in these faraway places.

And the \$15 a week the councilmen are paid to sit for a few minutes as the city's redevelopment agency is merely a drop in the bucket.

And the \$50 per session paid for the city's representation on the County Sanitation District board is a drop in the bucket.

And on and on. Our councilmen are paid better than they like to admit.

We again say NO to the pay hike proposal and urge its defeat April 9.

The Good Old Days?

The current disruption around many Los Angeles schools, which is being threatened at even more, leads one to believe that the day of the boycott of classes and the student strike has gotten far out of hand.

Students in today's schools have more—and apparently are enjoying it less—than any student at anytime in history.

Yet, the lists of grievances grow and the student chant of "ours isn't as good" prevails.

Our question is, "As compared to what?"

Remember when:

The principal ran his own school and was considered "boss."

Hot lunches weren't even served and peanut butter was generally the main course at lunchtime.

A "padding" at school meant a tougher one awaiting at home.

Truant officers were only a step behind those skipping classes.

Students went to school—mainly to study.

Smoking on the school grounds meant immediate expulsion.

Equipment in a chemistry lab included five test tubes and a Bunsen burner.

Athletic events drew the entire student body.

Busing to another district wasn't even an issue.

The pledge of allegiance and a prayer opened the daily routine.

School began at 8 and ended at 4 for everyone.

Failing grades were disgraceful.

Blackboards were the main teaching aid.

Riding a bike or walking was the principal mode of transportation.

All parents were concerned about their child's performance in the classroom.

A "dropout" was a guy who quit the baseball team.

Opinions of Others

If the government is going to pay certain people for doing nothing, as some are advocating, will those more efficient at doing nothing receive higher pay than others?—Petersburg (Tex.) Post.

Morning Report:

It is becoming clearer almost every day that the least expensive way to fly to Havana is to buy a cheap pistol and hi-jack an airplane. The only thing that is saving the airlines from bankruptcy is that so few people want to go to Cuba.

All officials admit they are stymied. It's not practical to arm pilots and risk gun duels in the pressurized cabin. Searching thousands of passengers every day would make them mad and delay flights forever.

It's just another manifestation that our lives are getting so complicated by progress that any damn fool can upset the whole system. Even now, a careless janitor who pulls the electric plug for a computer can paralyze a mighty corporation's operations.

Abe Mellinkoff

Thanks Just The Same, Bobby



SACRAMENTO SCENE

Legislators to Struggle Along Without Pay Hikes

By Capitol News Service

The California legislature apparently will have to get along for at least another two years on its present salary of \$16,000 a year, plus a generous expense set-up, of course.

Assemblyman Edward E. Elliott, D-Los Angeles, who is not seeking reelection this year, had introduced AB1125 providing for a 10 per cent pay raise for the lawmakers, up to \$17,600. Under the amendments to the state constitution adopted in 1966, the legislature may set its own salary but may not increase it more than 5 per cent a year.

The salary increase bandwagon came to a halt last week when the 20-member Republican caucus in the senate declared its solid opposition to the pay raise. Senator Donald L. Grunsky, R-Watsonville, caucus leader, said the GOP in the senate did not feel it would be proper to increase the legislative salary at a time when the state faces fiscal problems and the taxpayers already have been called upon to bear additional burdens on their personal incomes for government purposes.

Elliott, who said he would not proceed with the bill unless it had bi-partisan support, indicated he would drop the measure.

Some new figures have been released on the size of the over-spending under the 1967 educational finance bill. Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, D-Inglewood, said it appears the administration of Governor Ronald Reagan may have overstated the expected deficit by as much as \$40 million. Caspar W. Weinberger, director of finance, had written all school districts, informing them that the formulas under the 1967 bill would result in spending \$70 million more this year than was expected and \$82 million more in 1968-69. Accordingly, Weinberger advised the districts they might face a reduction in state school funds in the next year of 6.7 per cent and should plan their budgets accordingly. Unruh was highly critical of the letter and urged Reagan and Weinberger "to stop the hip-shooting with the facts and figures until they are sure what those are." He said his figures, showing expected overspending of only \$55 million this year, and \$58 million next year, were provided by Legislature Analyst A. Alan Post.

Bills were moving in the legislature—some forward and some in the other direction. The 20-member Repub-

lican caucus in the senate, along with voting to oppose the pay raise bill, also took a position against AB145-Alquist, which would establish an open Presidential primary election in California. This plan, similar to Oregon's, would permit the secretary of state to place on the ballot the names of all persons considered Presidential contenders.

The Republicans opposed the measure, "without prejudice," and said they would consider it next year, when it could not be construed as having an effect on Governor Reagan's political plans or future. The assembly approved AB169-Bear which would prohibit counting write-in votes in elections unless the candidate filed a declaration that he was a write-in candidate. Bear said it would eliminate the need to count such votes as "Mickey Mouse" or "Donald Duck." The first hearing on a bill to revise the controversial Rumford Housing Act was set for April 3 before the senate government efficiency committee. It is SB293-Walsh.

A welfare program has been presented to the legislature by Governor Reagan. He noted that a number of administrative changes already had been made but called for these further modifications: 1) creation of a uniform standard of assistance covering all of the 25 categories of aid; 2) increase in the average grant for the disabled, this year and next; 3) permit the state to share in the proceeds of the settlement of estates of deceased recipients; 4) eliminate subsidization of family income when it is not justified; and 5) remove incentive for families with dependent children to remain on welfare rolls by setting limit on family payments to coincide with earning limit of a family breadwinner who is working at the federal minimum wage level.

The governor has been conducting a series of conferences with representatives of minority-area communities throughout the state. Reagan said the sessions were for the purpose of finding out what programs were working and those that were not. It will give the administration an opportunity to point out some of the plans that are in the works. Reagan said he had not called representatives of any of the militant Negro groups to participate. The governor said there would be little

purpose in calling some of the leaders as they had not solved any problems.

The crippled children service program will get another \$750,000 for operations this year under a bill signed into law by Governor Reagan. In addition, Reagan noted he had included an extra \$769,000 in the 1968-69 budget to keep the program in full operation. The 1967 legislature had adopted a "closed-end" budget for the crippled children program, meaning no more money could be spent than was in the budget, without legislative action. The money was running short and certain services would have been interrupted if no more money was made available.

Huge generating facilities at Oroville dam were scheduled to go into operation last week, at a rate of 106,000 kilowatts. One unit at Thermalito powerplant already is in operation, with a capacity of 20,000 KW. The power will be used in the operation of the department's delta pumping plant near Tracy. The huge Oroville powerplant is underground beneath Oroville dam.

one day to be surpassed by "Tokuga-Wa Ieyasu," a novel by Sohachi Yamaoka, which has been running in Japanese newspapers daily since 1951, another record, and in its final form will fill 40 volumes.

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new facts in this continually record-breaking world. All records are proved, including the following:

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the platform of Rathenau Railway Station, Brandenburg, on the morning of Feb. 9, 1909. The reason was that King Edward VII of England was struggling inside the train to get into his German Field-Marshal uniform before he could emerge.

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Longest Sword Swallowed: Largest length of sword able to be "swallowed" by a practiced exponent, after a heavy meal, is 27 inches. Perhaps the greatest exponent is Alex Linton, born in Boyle County, Roscommon, Ireland. He stands 5 feet 3 inches tall and has "swallowed" four 27-inch blades at one time. He now lives in Sarasota, Fla.

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may say it was as if George Washington had had a son who became a great advocate of freedom in the pre-Civil War days.

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But it was too late. Excepting the Germans, the Czechs are the most competent technical people in middle Europe, and General Patton was headed there in 1944, but political interference from Washington slowed him down, and the Russians got there first. They gradually took over, and after Masaryk's death, President Benes, a protégé of the elder Masarek, was squeezed out of office.

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But the Czechs have not rested. An important part of the gradual defection of the eastern European satellites from Stalinist-totalitarian control, they have mounted a bloodless revolt. Last winter they deposited Stalinist Antonin Novotny as party chief, leaving him as president, but now he faces a presidential ouster.

In daily life, in literature, culture and right to protest, the Czechs have been steadily gaining ground against their oppressors. Recently, thousands of marchers went to the Masaryk family grave with wreaths. On some were the words, "Jan, we will not forget you."

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Sidewalk Vignette Could Be Better Than Flickers

Vignette: I saw this scene while waiting for a signal change at Sixth and Market a couple of afternoons ago.

Posed on a curb, apparently afraid to cross, was a pretty blind girl, waving her white cane in front of her. A dozen passersby brushed by her. Then along came a young man, Negro, sharp in a leather jacket, smiling and cocky. Without losing a step, he took her arm and led her off the curb, all the while talking a mile-a-minute. Halfway across the intersection, he smiled at something he said. As they reached the opposite curb, she was laughing gaily. Then she put her arm through his and they disappeared together, both laughing. . . . Now there's the beginning of a hell of lot better story than "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."

Scoops du Jour: Three San Franciscans who bounced \$14,000 worth of bum checks in a Vegas casino are now breathing easier. The gunman sent here from Nevada to collect the cash, or else, was nabbed by our alert cops and booked, oversized gun and all (he's an ex-con) . . . I really don't care where Lynda Bird Robb and her Chuck bunked during their visit here. The news is that her whereabouts were supposed to be kept secret because of the strong feelings against her father. Unbelievable. I mean, who's sore at Lynda Bird? . . . As for the recent dynamiting of Pacific Gas & Electric installations in the Berkeley-Oakland area, Frank Chesley observes sourly: "If they suspect a disgruntled subscriber, the investigation could take years" . . . Add real

headlines that sound like fake graffiti: "Cary Grant Uses LSD." Or is that an endorsement?

Funny old town: Nurse June Solberg, wearing her sparkling whites, took a cab to work at St. Luke's yesterday morn and was feeling rather grand till the cabbie said: "Gee, lady, it was a pleasure driving you — the

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

last fare I had was a hooker" . . . Chopper pilots round the Bay are currently intrigued by the sight of 20 sheep in a pen — at the Hunters Pt. Naval Shipyard. Turns out they belong to the Radiological Defense Lab, whose workers use the sheep for "studies." And in the Tenderloin yesterday morn, a pretty girl giving away cigarette samples ran afoul of our local LOL, who hollered at her: "The other girls around here only give VD — you're handing out cancer!"

Maybe this is significant and maybe not, but either way, the freighter called Our Lady of Peace, on the S.F.-Saigon run, was ordered to change her name "at your first port of call in Japan." Viola, she is now the Galician Navigator, and I never heard of one, either. Christopher Cracow? . . . Bobby Kennedy's speechwriters are going to have to spend a little more time on research. At S.F. Airport, they had their candidate say: "When Sir Francis Drake sailed into San Francisco harbor, the natives wanted to make him king — I just want to be President," and so on. As

even I know, Sir Francis never sailed into S.F. harbor, and it was YEARS later that he flew into town to open the hotel bearing his name at Powell and Sutter . . . Jim Broughton's "Bedlam in the Playhouse," the last play EVER at the old Playhouse Theater here (soon to be torn down), ends appropriately with the collapse of civilization, and all the actors lying dead onstage. It's a drama critic's dream come true.

Bay City Beagle: New at Ghirardelli Square: a fountain designed by Ruth Asawa, one of Mayor Alloto's new Art Commissioners. Among its features is a mermaid holding a baby, and the question, Professor, is — ??? . . . No shortage of drinks at Joan Hitchcock's bash for the Olympic skiers in her Italian palazzo on Broadway — but a great shortage of paper napkins. The skiers kept stuffing them into their ears to drown the dynamic sounds of the "new" Moby Grape (same name, different set of madmen). Joan must have great neighbors. The cops weren't called once . . . Soon as he checked into the Hyatt House, Jackie Gleason ordered a case of diet cola and a bathroom scale, leading to a foul rumor that The Great One is on the wagon. Je le doute . . . This leads naturally to hangovers, therefore we note that Frank Sinatra ordered a gross (144 packs) of R-prieve from Fred Meyer, the Sausalito pharmacist who invented this hangover cure. Sterling Hayden is another R-prieve hookee—but these tablets don't work for me. Or are you supposed to take them INSTEAD?

ROYCE BRIER

Jan Masaryk Still Part Of Czech Freedom Hopes

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WILLIAM HOGAN

'Guinness' Updates Book Of Facts, World Records

Browsing in a perfectly wonderful reference book, the revised and enlarged (sixth) edition of "Guinness Book of World Records," I find that the top-selling author of all time was one Marshal I. V. Dzhughashvili, whose many titles have sold more than 672 million copies. Marshal Dzhughashvili wrote under his professional name, Josef Stalin.

The "Guinness" book, sponsored by eminent Dublin brewers, is the work of Norris and Ross McWhirter. It is a compilation, well known in this country as final arbiter in countless barroom arguments, on the biggest, smallest, fastest, mostest and leastest of everything.

The fact, for example (this edition goes in for much literary talk), that the Longest Important Novel is Proust's "Remembrances of Things Past," running more than 1.3 million words in its English translation, but

one day to be surpassed by "Tokuga-Wa Ieyasu," a novel by Sohachi Yamaoka, which has been running in Japanese newspapers daily since 1951, another record, and in its final form will fill 40 volumes.

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